Limb reconstruction surgery with external fixators--university hospital experience.

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Abstract

We are describing 21 limb reconstruction procedures performed in 18 patients with the use of external fixators from 1996 to 1998. The average age of patients was 21, ranging from 1 to 50 years old. Indications for surgery included short limb, non-union, pseudarthrosis and bone or soft tissue deformities. Average length obtained for cases of limb lengthening was 6 cm. All the seven clubfoot deformities in five children were fully corrected. Equinus deformity recurred in one foot and was treated with supramalleolar osteotomy. Out of the seven cases with infected nonunion and bone loss, three failed to achieve union and required additional bone grafting procedures. One patient with unilateral external fixator for the correction of tibia shortening developed valgus deformity.